

## ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 47

California currently has tens of billions of dollars in outstanding bonds that we are paying interest on. Because we've passed so many bonds in recent years, California has been assigned the third lowest credit rating in the country. As such, we should be extremely careful whenever we consider taking on more debt.

There is no doubt that the school facilities shortage in our state is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. But Proposition 47 is the wrong solution. This bond is poorly written and patently unfair.

Prop 47 does not encourage immediate school construction. In fact, under this new scheme, the schools with the neediest kids aren't even obligated to *begin* building a single school for 6½ years. School districts can reserve bond money by simply stating an "intent" to build a school in a general location. They don't need to have plans drawn up, complete an environmental impact study, or even identify an approvable site. Schools built with the bond funds made available in 2004 would not have to break ground until 2011! In short, Prop 47 will allow these

districts to tie up money while other ready-to-build sites go unfunded and projects are delayed.

Additionally, Prop 47 favors the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) over every other district in the state. According to numbers from the Office of Public School Construction, LAUSD is eligible for over 24% of the new construction funds, even though it accounts for only 12% of the state's student population.

Tax dollars from across the state shouldn't be used to service a bond that so heavily favors a single school district. Say "No" to LAUSD's greed. Vote "No" on Prop 47.

WM. J. "PETE" KNIGHT, *Senator*  
17th District, California State Senate  
JON COUPAL, *President*  
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association  
LEWIS K. UHLER, *President*  
National Tax Limitation Committee

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## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 47

The opponents are right about one thing: CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS *are* CRITICALLY OVERCROWDED. We need more than 13,000 NEW CLASSROOMS to ACCOMMODATE NEW STUDENTS and KEEP CLASS SIZE SMALL.

Here are some facts the opponents *didn't* get right:

*Fact:* Every CRITICALLY OVERCROWDED district is eligible *only* for its FAIR SHARE of Prop. 47 funds to build new classrooms. Every Central Valley school in line *will* be funded and no district, in Los Angeles or anywhere else, will get *more* than its fair share.

*Fact:* CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR and SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS can BEGIN IMMEDIATELY if Prop. 47 passes. More than 2000 UNFUNDED PROJECTS are WAITING and READY TO BREAK GROUND—new classroom construction, moving kids out of portable trailers, earthquake safety improvements, wiring old classrooms to the Internet, upgrading electrical and fire alarm systems, repairing leaky roofs and installing heating and air conditioning.

*Fact:* California does *not* have a poor credit rating. On the contrary, the State Treasurer and respected bond rating services report CALIFORNIA'S BOND CREDIT RATING is HEALTHY and STRONG.

*Fact:* The California Taxpayers' Association supports Prop. 47 because school construction projects must comply with STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY requirements, including mandatory AUDITS, to SAFEGUARD AGAINST WASTE and MISMANAGEMENT.

*Fact:* Prop. 47 is part of a state/local partnership. WITHOUT PROP. 47's MATCHING FUNDS, MOST LOCAL SCHOOL BOND PROJECTS CANNOT BE COMPLETED.

Our children deserve a safe classroom and the individual attention they need to succeed.

Prop. 47 means...MORE CLASSROOMS and BETTER SCHOOLS...WITHOUT RAISING TAXES! VOTE YES on 47!

WAYNE JOHNSON, *President*  
California Teachers Association  
BILL HAUCK, *Co-Chair*  
Taxpayers for Accountability and Better Schools  
BARBARA B. INATSUGU, *President*  
League of Women Voters of California